

FIRE FACT NO. 031 CHECKLIST(s) : 99

TITLE : REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRE DETECTION AND SIGNALING SYSTEMS

CHECKLIST ITEM(s) : 99-15

REFERENCE(s) : 91-101/31-1.3

PAGE 1 of 2

Purpose

- To help ensure an appropriate level of life safety in certain occupancies by clarifying requirements for design, installation, inspection, and maintenance of fire alarm systems.
- To reduce confusion by communicating system design, installation, inspection, testing, and maintenance expectations therefore enhancing efficient management of state and local resources as well as improving fire protection and life safety for the citizens of Kansas.
- To help ensure the parties responsible for the design, installation, inspection, testing, and maintenance of fire alarm systems are doing so in a satisfactory manner. *It is the intent of the Kansas State Fire Marshal to elevate the quality of practice of all who deal with fire alarm systems.*

Summary

This document is intended to clarify the Kansas State Fire Marshal Office's (KSFMO) position concerning the minimum (i.e. required and expected) design, installation, inspection, testing, and maintenance requirements for fire alarm systems. Guidance is provided for new system installations and work concerning existing systems.

Background

The KSFMO is required by K.S.A. 31-133 to adopt reasonable rules and regulations for the safeguarding of life and property from fire and explosions.

In addition, the KSFMO is required to act as the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) in specific occupancies. Resources are dedicated to the "priority" facilities having the most vulnerable occupants. They are:

- Educational, including private schools, pre-schools, daycare, childcare centers, and state institutions including regents universities.
- Health care, including hospitals, "adult care facilities", nursing homes, ambulatory care centers, and residential board and care facilities.
- Correction and detention.



Kansas State Fire Marshal Prevention Division

FIRE FACT NO. 031 CHECKLIST(s) : 99

TITLE : REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRE DETECTION AND SIGNALING SYSTEMS

CHECKLIST ITEM(s) : 99-15

REFERENCE(s) : 91-101/31-1.3

PAGE 2 of 2

The KSFMO has adopted via regulation, the following codes and standards for the purpose of fulfilling K.S.A. 31-133 and ensuring a satisfactory level of fire protection and life safety.

- UBC, 1997
- UFC, 1997
- NFPA 72, through UBC/UFC

Later editions of the above codes may be approved for use by the KSFMO.

A fire alarm system is a specialized system and requires knowledge and experience to properly perform design, installation, inspection, and maintenance. Only those individuals properly trained, educated and experienced shall participate in work on these systems.

Existing systems shall be maintained according to the applicable codes and standards listed above.

By adopting these minimum standards, the KSFMO is requiring a minimum level of protection be provided through system design, installation, inspection, and maintenance.

Plans for fire alarm systems in “priority” facilities shall be submitted to the KSFMO for approval. The submitted plans shall comply with standards set forth by the KSFMO and shall include; a copy of equipment cut sheets, floor diagrams (showing placement of detectors, fire alarm control panel, pull station locations, annunciation devices, etc.). Also include specification sheets and any other information relevant to the fire alarm or smoke detection system. Approval of the completed installation shall require submittal of a “Certificate of Completion”.

The design, installation, modification, inspection, and maintenance of fire alarm systems shall comply with all requirements of the applicable nationally promulgated codes and standards, regardless of whether or not the KSFMO required a plan or whether or not plan approval was given by any jurisdiction, including the KSFM.

Currently, there are no mandatory statewide qualifications for the installation of fire alarm systems. Every new system and modified system are expected to be reviewed or under the supervision of either a Kansas licensed engineer with knowledge in fire alarm systems or an individual holding certification from independent testing agencies such as NICET.

Application

This policy applies to the following facilities and situations:

- New system installations.
- Existing system additions, alterations, and other changes.
- Other non-priority occupancies will be included as appropriate.

